


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. Not Assigned

REMARKS

Claims 4-5 and 7-11 have been amended to eliminate improper multiple dependencies.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) A stent according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 or 2, wherein each filament end is welded to one of its next-but-one neighbours.
5. (Amended) A stent according to [claims 1, 2, 3, or 4] claim 1 or 2, wherein some but not all of the filament ends are welded.
7. (Amended) A stent according to claim 5 [or 6], wherein the diameter of the join is no more than 3, preferably less than 2.5, times the diameter of the filament.
8. (Amended) A stent according to any of claim 5 [to 7], wherein at least some of the joins provide a shoulder in a rearward axial direction.
9. (Amended) A stent according to [any preceding claim,] claim 1 or 2, wherein, in its fully unloaded conformation the angle α between filaments is less than 90°.
10. (Amended) A stent according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 or 2, wherein the angle at which the filaments are joined to one another is in the range 0° to 15°.

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11. (Amended) A stent according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 or 2, wherein the filaments bend outwardly towards the join, the angle at which they bend increasing as the filaments extend towards the join.